

PCT Appl. No.: PCT/NZ00/00170
Filed : Herewith

IN THE CLAIMS: / / / /

Please cancel Claims 4, 20-23, and 25-30 without prejudice.

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Add B1
1. (Amended) An apparatus for raising and lowering a toilet seat with respect to a toilet bowl, the toilet seat having a hinged lid, the apparatus including:

A 2
a support for bearing upon a rim of the toilet bowl, the support having clamps for releasably securing the support to the toilet bowl, the clamps being adjustable both lengthwise and widthwise in a horizontal plane with respect to the rim in order to accommodate toilet bowl rims with varying dimensions;

guides connected between the support and the toilet seat for laterally restraining the seat and allowing the seat to be raised and lowered, the guides including telescoping legs supporting the toilet seat at two or more heights above the toilet bowl; and

a toilet seat lid opening mechanism having a foot lever pivotably connected to the lid for opening thereof, a lid opening detent biased to a holding position for holding the lid in a rotated attitude, and a foot switch to release the detent, wherein the foot lever is slidably connected to a fixed section of the guides.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the toilet seat lid opening mechanism further includes a hand lever connected to the lid, the hand lever comprising a hand switch adapted to release the lid opening detent.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the telescoping legs supporting the toilet seat are power actuated.

Add B1
5. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the telescoping legs supporting the toilet seat comprise guide detents associated with the guides.

A 3
6. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the telescoping legs supporting the toilet seat are fluid actuated.

PCT Appl. No.: PCT/NZ00/00170
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7. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the seat is hingedly and releasably connected to the apparatus.

8. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the toilet bowl is selected from the group consisting of a fixed toilet bowl and a portable toilet pan.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the toilet bowl is a portable toilet pan and the apparatus is incorporated into a chair.

AB 10. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein each telescoping leg comprises at least one guide detent, and the apparatus further including one or more levers operable to engage and disengage each guide detent.

11. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the guide comprises four or five telescoping legs.

12. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising an insert releasably engageable with the seat, the insert being adapted to conform to the internal shape of the bowl.

13. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the insert incorporates concertina sides.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the insert is made from a material comprising at least one of plastics, fiberglass, wood, and metal.

15. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 comprising at least one of steel, plastics, composite materials, aluminum alloys, and wood.

16. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further including a toilet seat heater.

PCT Appl. No.: PCT/NZ00/00170
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17. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the toilet seat heater comprises a thermostatically controlled electrical resistance element.

18. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the element is operated at a voltage of 12-32 Volts.

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19. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising at least one of:
at least one arm rest;
at least one collapsible arm rest;
a back rest;
a collapsible back rest;
a protective skirt arranged about the telescoping legs; and
a protective skirt arranged about the telescoping legs, the skirt being injection molded from plastic.

a 4
24. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the support further includes pivotable flanged portions on each side of the insert.

Please add the following new claims:

add B'
a 4
31. (New) A wheeled chair including an apparatus for raising and lowering a seat with respect to the wheeled chair, the apparatus being attached to the wheeled chair and the wheeled chair having a plurality of wheels arranged about and under the apparatus, the seat having a hinged lid, the apparatus comprising:

a support for bearing upon the wheeled chair, the support having clamps for releasably securing the support to the wheeled chair, the clamps being adjustable both lengthwise and widthwise in a horizontal plane with respect to the chair in order to accommodate chairs with varying dimensions;

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guides connected between the support and the seat for laterally restraining the seat and allowing the seat to be raised and lowered, the guides including telescoping legs supporting the seat at two or more heights above the chair; and

a seat lid opening mechanism having a foot lever pivotably connected to the lid for opening thereof, a lid opening detent biased to a holding position for holding the lid in a rotated attitude, and a foot switch to release the detent, wherein the foot lever is slidably connected to a fixed section of the guides.

AS 32. (New) The wheeled chair of Claim 31, wherein the chair further comprises a steering mechanism adapted to turn at least one set of the wheels.

33. (New) The wheeled chair of Claim 31, further comprising at least one brake engageable with at least one of the wheels.

34. (New) The wheeled chair of Claim 31, further comprising a power source and a motor operable by a user of the wheeled chair.

35. (New) The wheeled chair of Claim 34, further comprising a clutch cooperating with the motor so as to enable disengagement of the motor by the user.

36. (New) The wheeled chair of Claim 31, further comprising one or two footrests.